

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Coated~~ A coated metal surface comprising, successively:

- a layer (1) of epoxy primer placed next to the metal,
- a layer (2) of binder comprising a blend comprising 98 to 50 parts by weight of at least one fluoropolymer L3 ~~per and~~ 2 to 50 parts, ~~respectively~~, of at least one polymer chosen from ~~acrylic polymers L1 and~~ polymers L2 which are fluoropolymers chemically modified by a partial dehydrofluorination followed by an oxidation,
- a layer (3) of fluoropolymer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Coated~~ A coated metal surface comprising, successively:

- a layer (1) of epoxy primer placed next to the metal,
- a layer (2) of binder comprising a blend comprising 98 to 50 parts by weight of at least one fluoropolymer L3 ~~per and~~ 2 to 50 parts, ~~respectively~~, of at least one polymer chosen from ~~acrylic polymers L1 and~~ polymers L2 which are fluoropolymers chemically modified by a partial dehydrofluorination followed by an oxidation.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Coated~~ A coated metal surface which is the outer surface of tubes, comprising, successively:

- a layer (2) of binder placed next to the metal and comprising 98 to 50 parts by weight of at least one fluoropolymer L3 per 2 to 50 parts, respectively, of a mixture comprising at least one polymer chosen from the polymers L2 which are fluoropolymers chemically modified by a partial dehydrofluorination followed by an oxidation, and optionally at least one polymer chosen from acrylic polymers L1,
- a layer (3) of fluoropolymer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Coated~~ A coated metal surface comprising, successively:

- a layer (1) of primer placed next to the metal and comprising 1 to 70 parts of a polymer chosen from polymers L2 which are fluoropolymers chemically modified by a partial dehydrofluorination followed by an oxidation, per 30 to 99 parts, respectively, of an epoxy primer,
- a layer (3) of fluoropolymer.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, in which the epoxy primer is the product of the reaction of a thermosetting epoxy resin and of a hardener.

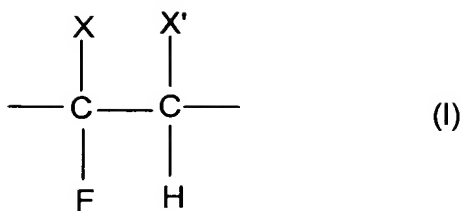
Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Coated metal surface according to Claim 5, in which the gel time defined by Afnor standard NFA 49-706 is ~~advantageously~~ between 20 and 60 seconds.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 5, in which the epoxy primer has a Tg greater than 120°C.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, containing an acrylic polymer L1 which is a copolymer of methyl methacrylate and of acrylic acid.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, containing an acrylic polymer L1 having a Tg greater than or equal to 120°C.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, ~~containing~~ wherein the chemically modified fluoropolymers ~~wherein the fluoropolymer and the oil is hot oil~~ which is are chemically modified to obtain L2 ~~is a fluoroplastic of~~ or a fluoroelastomer which contains units of general formula (I):



in which X and X' may be, independently of each other, a hydrogen atom, or a halogen, or a perhaloalkyl.

Claim 11 (Original): Coated metal surface according to Claim 10, in which the oxidation to prepare L2 is obtained in heterogeneous aqueous medium with hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) or with the hypochlorite anion (ClO⁻).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A coated metal surface according to claim 1, in which the fluoropolymer L3 is polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) ~~PVDF~~ homopolymer or a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene (VF2-HFP) ~~VF2-HFP~~ copolymer.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, in which the melting point of L3 is greater than 150°C.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A coated metal surface according to Claim 3, in which the fluoropolymer of the layer (3) is polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) ~~PVDF~~ homopolymer or a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene (VF2-HFP) ~~VF2-HFP~~ copolymer having a melting point of at least 165°C.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, in which the surface is an outer surface of a tube.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one X and X' is chlorine, fluorine or perfluoroalkyl.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 1, wherein the metal is steel.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A coated metal surface according to Claim 15, wherein the metal is steel.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): In a method of transporting oil through a tube, the improvement wherein the tube is comprises a coated metal surface in accordance with Claim 18.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method according to Claim 19, wherein the tube is in sea water and the oil is hot oil.

Claim 21 (New): A coated metal surface according to claim 2, in which the fluoropolymer L3 is polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) homopolymer or a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene (VF2-HFP) copolymer.

Claim 22 (New): A coated metal surface according to claim 4, in which the fluoropolymer L3 is polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) homopolymer or a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene (VF2-HFP) copolymer.

Claim 23 (New): A coated metal surface according to claim 10, in which the fluoropolymer L3 is polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) homopolymer or a vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoropropylene (VF2-HFP) copolymer.